CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing configuration information associated with an electronic circuit design, comprising:

identifying one or more configuration elements from one or more configuration commands of the configuration information;

associating the configuration elements with design elements of ~~an~~ the electronic circuit design, the configuration elements defining characteristics of the design elements; and

retrieving, for at least one design element, each configuration element ~~for~~ associated with the at least one design element.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, the step of associating comprising generating one or more data structures containing configuration elements and then storing the data structures with their associated design elements in a hierarchical model of the electronic circuit design.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising traversing the hierarchical model and, for each design element, storing, in a database, each configuration element associated with the design element.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, the step of retrieving comprising specifying a design element to retrieve associated configuration elements.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, the step of associating comprising storing the identified configuration elements and associated design elements on a design element by design element basis in a database.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, the design element comprising an HLSN.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for processing configuration information, comprising:

means for identifying at least one configuration element from at least one configuration command;

means for associating the configuration element with one or more design elements of an electronic circuit design; and

means for retrieving each configuration element associated with at least one design element without further parsing of the configuration commands.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, the means for associating comprising means for generating one or more data structures containing configuration elements, and means for storing the data structures with their associated design elements in a hierarchical model of the electronic circuit design.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for traversing the hierarchical model and, for each design element, means for storing, in a database, each configuration element associated with the design element.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, the means for retrieving comprising means for specifying a design element to retrieve associated configuration elements.

11. (Original) The system of claim 7, the means for associating comprising means for storing the identified configuration elements and associated design elements on a design element by design element basis in a database.

12. (Original) The system of claim 7, the design element comprising an HLSN.

13. (Currently Amended) A software product comprising instructions, stored on computer-readable media, wherein the instructions, when executed by a computer, perform steps for processing configuration information, comprising:

instructions for identifying one or more configuration elements from one or more configuration commands;

instructions for associating the configuration elements with design elements of an electronic circuit design; and

instructions for retrieving, for at least one design element, each configuration element ~~for~~ associated with the at least one design element and without further parsing of the configuration commands.

14. (Original) The software product of claim 13, the instructions for associating comprising instructions for generating one or more data structures containing configuration elements and then instructions for storing the data structures with their associated design elements in a hierarchical model of the electronic circuit design.

15. (Original) The software product of claim 14, further comprising instructions for traversing the hierarchical model and, for each design element, instructions for storing, in a database, each configuration element associated with the design element.

16. (Original) The software product of claim 15, the instructions for retrieving comprising instructions for specifying a design element to retrieve associated configuration elements.

17. (Original) The software product of claim 13, the instructions for associating comprising instructions for storing the identified configuration elements and associated design elements on a design element by design element basis in a database.

18. (Original) The software product of claim 13, the design element comprising an HLSN.